

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNGSTOWN CONNECTION

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Youngstown Connection. This group of exceptional students from the Youngstown city schools serves as ambassadors of our valley throughout the Nation and the world.

The Youngstown Connection is comprised of 12 high school students from Youngstown city schools. They are skilled in all areas of the performing arts including theater, dance, and music.

The talents of the Youngstown Connection have been showcased at National venues, including the Kennedy Center and the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the Lincoln Center, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City. Across the globe they have performed at the World War II D-Day commemorations in Normandy, Paris, and London, Austria's Millennial Celebration of Music in Vienna, and the Berlin Wall Freedom Celebration in cities throughout Germany.

Many of the students come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, and through the Youngstown Connection they are able to explore opportunities they may not have otherwise been granted.

It has been widely reported, Mr. Speaker, that students of the arts continue to outperform their peers who for one reason or another have not taken courses in the arts. According to the College Entrants Examination Board, in 2005 SAT scores of students with coursework or experience in the arts scored between 25 and 65 points higher in the verbal section and an average of 28 points higher in the math section than those with no arts coursework. 100 percent of Youngstown Connection students graduate from high school, and 97 percent go on to graduate from college. The focus, the discipline, and the motivation the students gain throughout these experiences in the Youngstown Connection remains with them throughout their lives.

Today, Mr. Speaker, several alumni of the program are at the top of their career fields, including several professional performers. Lawrence Brownlee, who went on to gain a Master of Music degree from Indiana University, is an opera singer who is considered one of the top young tenors in the entire world. He has performed in every major opera house worldwide and currently has a contract with the Metropolitan

Opera. Another Youngstown Connection alumnus, Timothy Gordon, is a professional dancer and teacher in New York who has performed with, amongst others, Alicia Keys. Three former alumni are currently pursuing Ph.D.'s from universities across the country in fields such as cancer and heart research.

Mr. Speaker, all children in every school need the same opportunities as these kids. Imagine the potential that could be unleashed across the country. Let us give these kids the opportunity that they deserve. These students learn the value of giving back to their community through service projects to help the homeless. The group also raises their own funds for travel, costumes, and other expenses through the use of fund-raising activities and generous donations from private citizens and groups. The Youngstown Connection provides these young adults with the opportunity to share their love of the arts and promote the message of brotherhood and peace throughout the world.

I am proud of the Youngstown Connection, Mr. Speaker, and because of them the future of our community in northeast Ohio and the country is in good hands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BADMAN VS. LAWMAN—A TRIBUTE TO TEXAS PEACE OFFICER DALE GEDDIE

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I request permission to take Mr. BURTON's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it is the kind of ammunition you would expect a foreign insurgent to have, 150 armor piercing bullets and a rifle. But it was all too familiar what happened in this event. This individual with all this fire power being a bad father and a bad husband, he was pitted against police and his own family. He held them hostage, then lashing out at the lawmen sent to rescue his family. This domestic disturbance ended fatally, just as too many domestic disturbances end.

After threatening his wife, this family terrorist, Joseph Earl Walsh, turned his blazing gun on a well-known and well-loved peace officer, a servant of the people, leaving him to die while holding fellow peace officers at bay. This stand-off would last more than 3 hours, and when the dust and gun powder cleared the skies, East Texas Constable Dale Geddie of Tyler, Texas would be found murdered.

As a constable, Geddie was more than a law officer, he was an officer of the people. He carried a charge that dates all the way back to the Father of Texas, Stephen F. Austin, who started this band of lawmen to protect Texas settlers from the Indians. Constables are an elite corps of cowboy-lawmen, part of an organization really older than Texas Rangers. They date back to before the days of the Republic of Texas. And Constable Dale Geddie was known for upholding the charge to protect and serve.

He was a fine lawman and a fine human being. Friends have said that if you knew Dale, he was your friend for life. He was the guy who would take off his boots and give them to you if you needed them. Now it is Constable Dale Geddie's family, his wife and his two sons, who will need help during the loss of their good father and their good husband. Their father's fellow peace officers, with their badges draped in the black cloth of sacrifice, their hearts bruised, have lost a friend, a leader, and a hero.

Today we remember Constable Dale Geddie, his family and friends and fellow Texas lawmen, and as we remember them we also remember Smith County Sheriff's Deputy Daniel Leon, who was also injured in this attack. Today we pause to say a prayer and give praise to all the other lawmen across the country who face the forces of evil, evil that hides in the hardened hearts of the heathen.

Mr. Speaker, peace officers are the last strand of wire in the fence between the people and the lawless. Constable Dale Geddie was one of those peace officers.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ON THE PASSING OF GEORGE DUNNE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of Mr. BROWN.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, last week George William Dunne, one of the giant figures of Chicago and Cook County politics in the last half of the 20th century passed at age 93.

George Dunne came from humble circumstances, the son of Irish immigrants. He graduated from De La Salle Institute on Chicago's South Side, the alma mater of such stalwarts of Cook County politics as Mayor Martin Kennelly, Cook County board president Dan Ryan, and Mayor Richard J. Daley.